12

A

WARNING-PEECE FOR ENGLAND.

By that sad and fearefull Example that hath happened to Men, Women, and Children, all sorts of Cattle and Fowles; by Stormes, Tempests, Hail-stones, Lightning and Thunder, *June* 25. 1652.

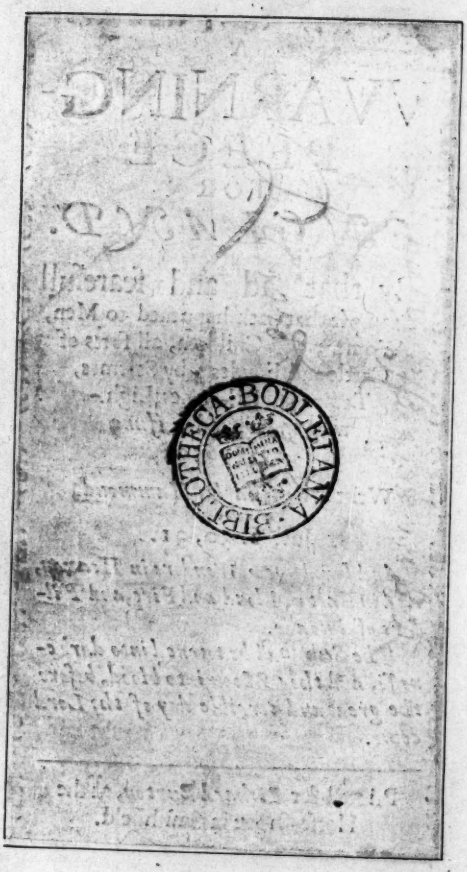
Written by *Charles Hammond*,

Joel 2. 30, 31.

And I will shew Wonders in Heaven, and in Earth, Blood and Fire, and Pillars of Smoake.

The Sun shall be turned into darkenesse, and the Moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come.

Printed for *Richard Burton*, at the Horse-shooe in Smithfield.


BIBLIOTHECA·BODLEIANA·

A WARNING-Peece for all ENGLAND.

BEloved Friends, I have here presented to you a small Book called, A Warning-peece for all England; which I would intreat all true Christians to hearken to it; and being forewarned by these wonderful Examples of Almighty Gods fearful Judgements, which I shall here relate unto you, that hath happened in this our Nation of late, that you may be hereafter forewarned to prepare to prevent a stop the heavie wrath of God, which unfeignedly is like to be powred out upon us all.

This is no Fable, nor invented

story, which is here to bee related, but such truths, that thousands can witnesse it: but now adayes many folks in this our Nation, are so hard of beliefe, that they will not beleeve unlesse they see; who are like Thomas Didimus, or like those People in Noahs time, that all the time he was building the Arke, would not beleeve the Flood, till such time as it came upon them and drowned them all.

So in these our times, wee have heard of the Judgements that Almighty GOD hath sent in this our Nation, and yet we will not beleeve it; and if we did, we never strove by hearty prayer and sound Repentance to keepe the like from us: but to our great griefe, we have of late both seen, heard, and felt the Wonders and Judgements of the Lord here amongst us; and yet our hearts are as hard as ever they were: and so stiffe-necked we are, that we will not humble our selves, nor bow downe neither our necks nor our knees by prayer to the Lord our GOD, that he may stop his Wrath and Judgements, and withdraw his heavie hand

hand from this sinfull and prophane Nation.

How many sad and woefull Accidents hath there befallen many people since the beginning of this present Yeare, by hanging, drowning, and killing themselves, and one another? It may justly be called a yeare of Wonder and Admiration, the like whereof hath not in any age beene known.

Therefore, all you that are true Christians, and loves the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ I desire you all that read or heare this Booke, to love, honour, and feare that great God of Gods, and King of Kings, who by his Almighty power can make the Earth shake and tremble, and the Foundations of the Hills to move, as you shall finde it written in the 18 Psalme (when David called upon the Lord to deliver him from his Enemies) and the 11, 12, and 13 verses; He made Darkenesse his secret place, his Pavillion round about him were darke Waters, and thick Clouds of the Skies: At the brightnesse that was before him his

thick Clouds passed, Haile-stones and Coales of Fire: The Lord also Thundred in the Heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; Haile-stones, and Coals of Fire.

The LORD hath a long time spoken to this sinfull Nation, by the voyce of the Gospell, and by his Ministers; which we not regarding, he now begins to speak loud to us, by the terrible voyce of Thunder and Lightning, which many places of this our Land hath of late felt; as for example:

On the twentieth of June last, at a place called Laughton, a Towne in Cheshire, there happened such a tempestuous storme of Thunder, Lightning, and Haile, in the Church of that Towne, that amazed all the People therein, killed a great many in the said Church, to the number of eleven, and also hurt many: Whilst the Minister was executing his place, there came a flash of fire into the Pulpit, which struck him downe, but God be praised it did him no hurt. It is a wonderfull Relation concerning the passages of it: for

they that were ſtrucken dead, never groaned, nor ſpoke not a word before they dyed; and ſome that ſat next them never hurt, and yet touched them, to the aſtoniſhment of all thoſe that ſaw it: Some were ſtrucken and lay for dead, but recovered againe, and others were wounded, and dyed ſince: there was a Child in the Mothers armes killed with the ſtriking of Lightning, and the Mother not hurt.

In ſeverall places of this our Nation, there was Houſes and Barnes burned and ſhattered down, & many great Trées torne up by the rutes.

At Greenwich in Kent, there happened ſuch a Storme of Thunder, Lightning, and Haile, that it brake not only many glaſſe windowes, but it brake downe the tops of many Houſes in the ſaid Town, and overthrew the gates of the Parke by the violence thereof.

At Uxbridge, by the violence of the Thunder, it threw a great doore off from the hinges, & broke a great part of the houſe, a man being at the doore blew him down, yet did him no harm.

Also, at Westchester, the side of a Church was beaten downe, but did no hurt.

At Ingerstone in Essex, a peece of that Steeple was beaten down, and a Pillar of the Church.

Three Maids being together disputing one with another, one of the having a Bible in her hand, which Maid was a Papist, it is said immediatly came a flash of lightning and struck her dead, and the other two had no harme, nor the Bible hurt.

Beastes, in sundry places, Hogs, Sheep, Oxen, Horses, & divers other Cattle, were killed in this tempest of Thunder, Lightning, & Haile. Great stormes & showers of Haile & Raine in some places, and in some none at all; in some Townes the people hath seen the stormes and showers round about them, and no Raine at all with them: There hath beene great harme done by the flods & waters in some places, and within five miles againe, great want of raine & water, to refresh the thirsty land, which wanted.

Now, you may see the wonders of

the

the Lord, & the power of the Almighty; some of those Haile-stones that fell, 'tis reported by many credible people that they were as big as egs, & very Icie and hard, some had the print of a Rose and Crowne, & some the print of Death.

A most miserable sad Accident happened in the Church and Towne of South-Okenton in Essex, the 21 of this instant June, about six a cloke at night, at which time was heard a most terrible great Thunder, with much Lightning: it burned a Barne full of Corne downe to the ground, and then tooke hold of the Church, burned a great part of the same, melted the Bells and Lead of the Steeple, and dispersed the same in little peeces all about the Church.

The tenth of June last, it was such a storme in Wales in Glamorgan-shire in Brecnoc-shire, & divers other parts of that County, that by the storme & flood that fell after, it drowned many fellers of salt, & carried away many fields of corne & hay; & to the wonder & astonishment of all that heares it, it carried away 7 dwelling-houses

in

in one place, & in another, & a great bridge; it carried not only the houses, but the people & all that was in thē, a sad woefull sight to behold.

The Lord destroyed the world in Noahs time with a flood, & he destroyed Sodom & Gomorrah with fire and brimston, & he made a Covenant that hee would not destroy the world no more by water; he hath kept his Covenant with us, but how many Covenants, Oathes, and Protestations have we broaken with him? Let us consider with our selves, & not provoke the Lord our God, he shews us by these signes & wonders, that he is the same God, & that he hath the seas & waters at his cōmand; he shews us that fire & water are his ministring spirits to execute viols of his wrath on al rebellious & stiff-necked people

The Foolish hath said in their heart (saith David) that there is no God; I am afraid, that in these sad and miserable times, that there are to many of such Opinions in this our Nation, that doe not stick to speake it openly, and say, that all things comes by Nature, and there is neither God

nor

nor Devil: but I desire all true Christians to beware of such Atheists; for though they shall not have the happinesse to see there is a God, yet they shall acknowledge one day, to their everlasting sorrow, that they then feel the powerfull hand of God in punishing of such Blasphemy; and that there is a God that can cast the into that place, where they shall see there is a Devill to torment and punish all such Blasphemers. You see the Lord begins to speak loud to us, to make us know there is a God, and that he will be feared by all sorts of People.

How many severall Warnings hath the LORD sent to this our sinfull Nation? First, he sent the Pestilence amongst us, which swept away thousands; and hath not the Sword a long time bin amongst us, insomuch that we have sheathed it in one anothers bowels? hath not the Father bin against the Sonne, and the Sonne against the Father, and one Brother against another? We know not how soone the Lord may send a Famine amongst us, for all we

have

have such plenty now, the Lord be praised.

Hath not the Almighty shewed Wonders in the Heavens above, and Signes in the Earth below; and will none of all these soften and mollifie our stonie-hearts, to seeke the Lord our God by unfained Prayer, and sound Repentance, and never let him go, as Jacob did when he wrestled with him, hee would not let him goe till he had blessed him, as you may read in Gen. 32. 26.

Beloved Friends, I would not have you think, that those on whom the hand of the Lord hath fallen by these accidents, are greater Sinners then we; for remember what Christ saith in the 13 Chap. of Luke, speaking of those eightéene on whom the Tower of Siloe fell; for, saith he, Unlesse ye Repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Therefore let us take warning by those examples, for we know not whose turne it is next.

Prayer is the safest Bulwarke that we shall find in these times, to protect us against all our Enemies; for any thing will prevaile with God,

to ſtop his Wrath, which is like to be poured out upon this land, it muſt be by that means. When Jonah proclaimed yet forty dayes and Niniveh ſhall be deſtroyed, yet by Prayer & Faſting the Lord repented him of the evill he pretended, and he did it not; as you may read in the 3 of Jonah; againe, you may read in Martin Luthers time, one had made a Covenant with the Devill, & had ſealed a Bond with his blood, and delivered it to him, and when he had made it knowen to Martin Luther, of his ſad condition; by Prayer that zealous Father prevailed ſo much with God, that the Devill was forced to come and deliver the Bond up, and ſo ſaved this poore Soule, which was as it were almoſt loſt.

By Prayer Joſhua prevailed with God, that the Sun and Moone ſtood ſtill till he had avenged him[illegible] of his Enemies, as you may read in Joſhua 9. 13.

By Prayer Moſes prevailed with God, ſo that he deſtroyed not the people, as he intended, when they made the molten Calfe, & worſhipped it:

But

But pray heare what the Lord said unto Moses, Let me alone that I may destroy this people, Exod. 33. 10. So that you may see that Prayer did, as it were, binde the hands of God, so that he could not destroy the people, by reason Moses prayer was so fervent to him for them.

By Prayer the Plague ceased in Davids time, by Prayer and Repentance he had his sins forgiven.

There is a many that are living at this present, that can remember how wonderfully God did afflict the City of London, and divers other places in this our Nation, by his Scourge of Pestilence, but yet by their earnest Prayers and Supplications to Almighty God, it pleased the Lord to stay his hand.

Nay, what is it that Prayer will not do, if it be done with earnestnes and sincerity? Therefore I desire all true Christians whatsoever, whether they bee rich or poore, old or young, to arme themselves by Prayer and Repentance, against the Assaults of the Devill; that they may not run head-long to ruine and

despair

despaire, as many of late hath done since this Yeare begun, and made away themselves, to the great grief of their friends.

Likewise, arme your selves by Prayer and Supplications to Almighty GOD, in the Name of Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour, and you need not feare what man can doe against you, for hee hath promised Mercy to all those that call upon his Name.

When had we not more need of Prayer, and when was it lesse used then now; some holds it superstition to use the forme of Prayer, but let them pore soules that hath not the Spirit of Prayer, let them seeke by Forme of Prayer, for the Lord will hearken to the cryes of his People: I called unto the Lord (said David) and he heard me, and delivered me out of all my troubles.

Againe I say, arme your selves by Prayer and Repentance, and you need not feare Thunder and Lightning, Sword, Pestilence, nor Famine: it will be your best Buckler in the time of Warre, it will be your best

best Physician against sickness; it will be a good store-house for you in the time of Famine; and so I conclude, in that short Prayer that once was used in the Church of England, in which I am perswaded no good Christian can say that there is any hurt.

From Lightning and Tempest, from Plague, Pestilence, and Famine, *Good Lord deliver us.*

FINIS.